

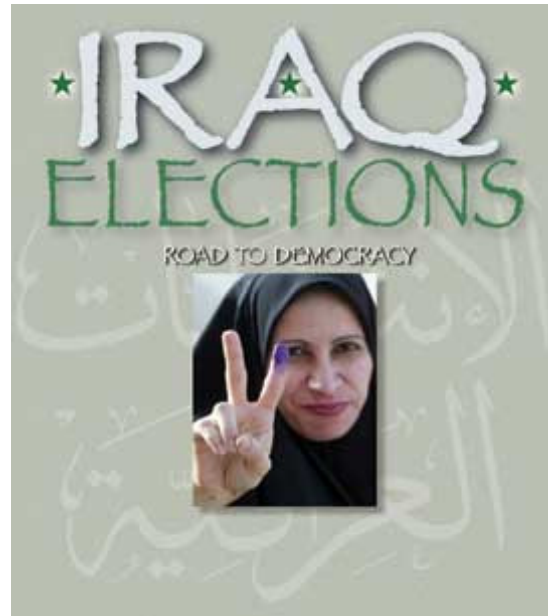
NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

IRAQ ELECTION: ROAD TO DEMOCRACY

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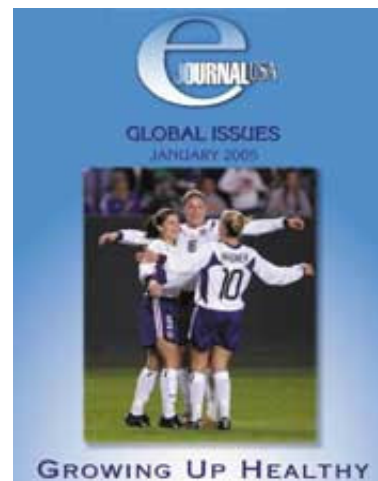


Growing Up Healthy

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No.2, February 2005

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DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

1. DEMOCRACY'S SOBERING STATE

By Thomas Carothers. *Current History*, Vol. 103, No. 677, December 2004, pp. 412-416

The state of democracy in the world is "sobering," writes Carothers. Despite progress in some countries, the high hopes for the "third wave" of democratization of the last decades have remained largely unrealized. Carothers attributes the global slowdown in the advance of democracy to several factors: the rebound of authoritarian forces when democratic change was unable to penetrate authoritarian institutions; citizens' disenchantment with democracy when democratic systems cannot provide economic or social well-being; the high economic performance of some authoritarian countries; and the use of the war on terrorism by some governments to crack down on political opponents. Ongoing engagement and partnerships with democratizing countries are essential to stimulate and support the state of global democracy, writes the author.

2. GRADING THE STATES: A MANAGEMENT REPORT CARD

By Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene. *Governing*, Vol. 18, No. 5, February 2005, pp. 24-95

Governing magazine's annual report card evaluates the 50 states on four areas of management: money, people, infrastructure and information. Barrett and Greene, editors for the evaluation project, explain in this article the criteria used to grade the states, noting

that the updated criteria for 2005 make this year's grades incomparable to previous marks. The evaluation team -- comprising Governing journalists and academics -- found positive initiatives in many states, particularly the improved and increased use of technology. However, budget and structural issues continued to pose a challenge. Overall, the average grade for all states was a B- in each of the four categories. The article also gives a detailed grading breakdown and analysis for each state.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

3. SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

By Stephen Boyko and Aron Gottesman. *National Interest*, Vol. 77, Fall 2004, pp. 105-110

Boyko and Gottesman say the importance of Small-to-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the micro-cap market lies in their potential for job creation, innovation and commercial aggregation facilitating the integration of global markets. But SMEs face a core difficulty in their pursuit of equity financing, they explain, because regulatory systems treat SMEs as if they are large corporations. The high regulatory costs imposed by the Security Exchange Commission (SEC) and effectively drive SMEs out of business, the authors note. Globalization is making this situation increasingly problematic, they say, because as markets become more robust, creativity and innovation -- primarily a product

The books, articles, and web sites described in the Article Alert were chosen to represent a diversity of views in order to keep the IRC users abreast of current issues and concerns in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

of SMEs -- becomes increasingly vital to economic growth, and consumers seek financial instruments tailored to their needs. The authors conclude that the SEC should provide a proportionate regulatory regime that is tailored to the specific needs of SMEs and micro-cap markets so that consumer choices -- not top-tier SEC commands -- can determine the degree of global micro-cap commerce.

4. COMBATING CORRUPTION: LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

By Anwar Shah and Mark Schacter. Finance & Development, Vol. 41, No. 4, December 2004, pp. 40-43

The authors say that, despite the anticorruption measures of many governments and development agencies, there is not yet any evidence that corruption has declined perceptibly, especially in highly corrupt countries. They argue that the lack of significant progress can be attributed to the fact that many anticorruption programs are simply folk remedies or one-size-fits-all approaches that fail to address the roots of corruption. In many cases -- particularly in highly corrupt governments -- the key to successfully addressing corruption lies in focusing on more indirect approaches aimed at reforming the environment in which corruption thrives, say the authors.

5. PLAYING THE NUMBERS; WHY CORPORATE GOVERNANCE RATINGS DON'T MATTER

By Irem Tuna. D & O Advisor, Vol. 3, No. 39, January 2005, 5 p.

The author evaluates claims made by a variety of consulting firms that good corporate governance characteristics, as measured by their quantitative ratings, are associated with company valuation and better managerial decisions. Tuna says that the evidence doesn't support these claims; governance ratings failed to predict which firms would engage in accounting manipulations, pay their executives extravagant compensation or engage in other, similar behavior inconsistent with shareholders' objectives. Consequently, the author argues that before a company's directors and officers begin revamping "inadequate" governance practices they should make sure that the costly change is likely to lead to a substantial improvement in managerial decision-making and company value. It is extremely difficult to make such an assessment based on corporate governance ratings, Tuna says.

GLOBAL ISSUES

6. THE SOLUTION

By William Tucker. American Enterprise, Vol. 16, No. 1, January/February 2005, pp. 20-26

The author describes the current energy predicament facing the U.S., and argues that nuclear power is the only viable solution to the U.S.' future energy needs. He notes that oil and gas supplies are projected to decline over the long term, and use of hydrogen in the transportation sector, though efficient, requires a great deal of electrical energy to generate; wind and solar power installations, though non-polluting, require large tracts of land. The

dangers surrounding nuclear power have been blown out of proportion, in his view. He describes several new reactor designs, including a proposed Accelerator-Driven Subcritical (ADS) system, that generates nuclear energy only when fed neutrons by a particle accelerator, and is a nuclear "omnivore," capable of consuming even radioactive waste from conventional reactors.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

7. NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND

By Colin L Powell. Foreign Policy, Jan/Feb 2005., Iss. 146; pg. 28, 8 pgs

Among the foreign policy issues of long-term strategic significance that rarely generate much interest, none is more important than economic development in the world's poorest societies. No issue has consumed more of the Bush administration's concern and energy. The Bush administration sees development, democracy, and security as inextricably linked. Development is not a soft policy issue, but a core national security issue. The root cause of poverty is social injustice and the bad government that abets it. Economic systems work best when access to opportunity is fair, when free people can use their talents to help themselves and others to prosper. Foreign aid to undemocratic regimes can be counterproductive in that it increases the longevity of the ruling autocracy by making it easier for despots to keep their small clique of supporters happy.

8. GRAND STRATEGY IN THE SECOND TERM

By John Lewis Gaddis. Foreign Affairs, January/February 2005, pp. 2- 16.

In his first four years, George W. Bush presided over the most sweeping redesign of U.S. strategy since the days of F.D.R. Over the next four, his basic direction should remain the same: restoring security in a more dangerous world. Some midcourse corrections, however, are overdue. Washington should remember the art of speaking softly and the need for international legitimacy.

9. POLITICAL ISLAM: IMAGE AND REALITY

By Mohammed Ayooob. World Policy Journal, Vol. 21, No. 3, Fall 2004, pp. 1-14

Ayooob, professor of international relations at Michigan State University, notes that several misconceptions about Islam are widespread -- that political Islam is monolithic, that it is inherently violent, and that the intermingling of religion and politics is unique to Islam. He points out that, far from being monolithic, there is great variety in the Islamic world -- what works in one country will not work in the next -- Muslim society developed quite differently in South and Southeast Asia than in the Middle East. Political Islam, Ayooob notes, is a modern phenomenon, with roots in the sociopolitical conditions of Muslim countries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He notes that "terrorism [is] the exception, not the rule, when it comes to political action undertaken in the name of Islam."

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

10. AMERICA NEEDS A NEW SYSTEM FOR SUPPORTING THE ARTS

By Bill Ivey. Chronicle of Higher Education, February 4, 2005, pp B6-B9

Ivey, believes that the U.S. needs to revamp the ways it supports the arts for the next half century. He says that it is no longer viable to treat non-profit and for-profit organizations as distinct entities, with for-profit organizations always producing lower-quality art. Non-profits also need to become more involved in legislative and regulatory affairs. He cites the example of the Federal Communications Commission's deregulation of radio station ownership -- this led to more stations being concentrated in fewer hands and using the same material, so fewer performing artists could get past the "gateway" and make themselves known. Ivey says that the nearly 50-year-old model by which corporate foundations match grants from the public sector has proven so successful that there are insufficient funds for the plethora of art

organizations and artists that the funding helped develop. He argues that a better understanding of the arts is needed to ensure that we have a strong support system for the future.

11. "WE NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO BOYS"

By Lyric Winik. Parade, January 16, 2005, pp. 4-6

Laura Bush has adopted an agenda for the next four years that is difficult and unprecedented for a First Lady. Among the issues are global illiteracy and women's rights. In an interview with the author, Mrs. Bush noted that she will devote her time to an issue that has not attracted the attention it deserves: that boys are falling behind. She says that as a society, we have paid a lot of attention to girls in recent decades, and "we have this idea in the United States that boys can take care of themselves ... [however] we actually have neglected boys." Boys attend college at lower rates than girls, do more poorly in school and drop out, get in trouble with the law and use drugs and alcohol, she notes. Mrs. Bush wants to work with athletic coaches and programs such as Boys & Girls Clubs, to better mentor boys.

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